

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CONURUS FROM THE
ANDAMAN ISLANDS.

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Examples of *Conurus*¹ *fasciatus* from the Andaman Islands prove, on examination, to be subspecifically different from mainland birds. As they seem to have no available name, we propose for them

Conurus fasciatus abbotti, subsp. nov.²

Chars. subsp.—Similar to *Conurus fasciatus fasciatus* from Tenasserim, India, but much larger; upper and lower parts paler.

Description.—Type, adult male, No. 178,825, U. S. Nat. Mus.; South Andaman Island, Andaman Islands, Bay of Bengal, January 17, 1901; Dr. W. L. Abbott. Anterior edge of forehead narrowly black, connecting with a somewhat broader line extending across the upper part of the lores from the bill to the eyes; forehead behind this black line greenish glaucous, passing posteriorly into pale dull glaucous blue and laterally into turtle green; remainder of pileum olive buff with a wash of lavender gray; cervix and anterior portion of the sides of the neck, night green; upper back and posterior portion of the sides of the neck, rather dark absinthe green; lower back and scapulars, Scheele's green, verging a little toward calliste green, and passing into calliste green on the upper tail-coverts, and, like all the rest of the upper parts, excepting the pileum and cervix, with more or less evident shimmering vermiculations like those of moiré silk; middle pair of tail-feathers methyl green, edged broadly with Scheele's green on their basal portion, where this color occupies nearly all of the feathers, decreasing in width distally and disappearing about one-third of the distance from the end; remaining rectrices dull Scheele's green, narrowly methyl green along a part of the shaft, all the shafts dark brown; wings dark fuscous, the inner webs of the quills paler, the primaries narrowly edged on their inner webs, and the secondaries more widely margined on the same webs with colonial buff; exposed upper

¹For the use of *Conurus* in place of *Palaeornis*, cf. Oberholser, *Smithson. Misc. Coll.*, LX, No. 7, October 26, 1912, p. 4; Mathews, *Novit. Zool.*, XVIII, 1911, p. 11.

²Named for the well-known naturalist, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

surface of wing-quills between Scheele's green and grass green, their outer edges narrowly yellowish; primary coverts grass green, their outer margins a little lighter; a large yellowish patch on the wing formed by all but the outermost median and greater coverts, by some of the posterior lesser coverts, and by the outer webs of the secondaries and of the tertials, this patch shading inwardly to aniline yellow, outwardly to javel green; remainder of the upper wing-coverts like the scapulars, the bend of wing more glaucous; lores and periorbital region, turtle green; upper part of cheeks dull burn blue; auriculars dull lavender; lower portion of the cheeks and the malar stripe together forming a broad black band extending backward to meet the corner of the night green cervical collar; chin dull cream buff; a narrow, fairly well-defined lavender collar extending back of the black moustachial band from its upper posterior point down across the throat; remainder of throat and breast between coral pink and onion-skin pink, the anterior and posterior edges of this area washed with lavender; abdomen, flanks, sides, and thighs, calliste green, strongly overlaid on abdomen with calamine blue; lower tail-coverts light yellow green; under surface of tail between dark olive buff and citrine drab, the edges of the feathers yellowish; lining of the wing lumiere green, varied with darker green, bluish, buffy, and a few dark fuscous spots formed by the centers of some of the feathers; "feet olive green; claws black."

Measurements.—Male:¹ wing, 169.5–174.5 (average, 172.3) mm.; tail, 196–198 (197); exposed culmen with cere, 27.5–28 (27.8); tarsus, 16–17.5 (17.0); middle toe without claw, 20–21 (20.7).

Female:² wing, 163–174 (average, 167.8) mm.; tail, 172–193 (180.8); exposed culmen with cere, 25–27.5 (26.1); tarsus, 15.5–18 (16.6); middle toe without claw, 20.5–23.5 (21.9).

Geographic distribution.—Andaman Islands, Bay of Bengal.

Remarks.—This new race from the Andaman Islands differs from *Conurus fasciatus major*³ Richmond, from Pulo Babi, western Sumatra, in its much smaller size and usually lighter upper and lower parts; from *Conurus fasciatus perioncus* Oberholser,⁴ from the Island of Nias, western Sumatra, in its inferior size, darker pileum, paler remaining upper surface, and lighter, more bluish posterior lower parts; and from *Conurus fasciatus calus*⁵ Oberholser, from the Island of Simalur, western Sumatra, in its paler upper and lower parts, and somewhat less bluish posterior lower surface. Notwithstanding the wide separation of its range, *Conurus fasciatus abbotti* most closely resembles *Conurus fasciatus major* from islands off the western coast of Sumatra, and it seems thus to present another instance of parallel development of characters.

As in all forms of the species, individual variation covers a wide range of color, particularly on the throat and breast, for in some individuals

¹Three specimens, from the Andaman Islands.

²Eight specimens, from the Andaman Islands.

³*Palaeornis major* Richmond, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XV, August 6, 1902, p. 188 (Pulo Babi, western coast of Sumatra).

⁴Smithson. Misc. Coll., LX, No. 7, October 26, 1912, p. 4.

⁵Smithson. Misc. Coll., LX, No. 7, October 26, 1912, p. 4.

this area is much paler and more pinkish, from which it varies to a much darker and more lavender bluish shade. Colors of the soft parts, in addition to those already mentioned, are, as obtained from the labels of specimens, as follows: maxilla of male, red, its tip yellow or black; mandible, black; iris with its inner circle green, its outer ring yellow; bill of female wholly black, the cere brownish, and iris pale yellow.

The geographic distribution of this species shows a remarkable interruption, for the bird seems to be absent from the southern Malay Peninsula and from Sumatra, although it occurs in Tenasserim and on the Barussan Islands off the western coast of Sumatra. Including the form here described there seem to be now recognizable the following five subspecies of *Conurus fasciatus*:

Conurus fasciatus fasciatus (Müller).—Kumaon, the Himalaya Mountains and southern China, south to Cochin China and Tenasserim.

Conurus fasciatus abbotti Oberholser.—Andaman Islands.

Conurus fasciatus major (Richmond).—Pulo Babi and Pulo Lasia, Barussan Islands, western Sumatra.

Conurus fasciatus perioncus Oberholser.—Nias Island, Barussan Islands, western Sumatra.

Conurus fasciatus calus Oberholser.—Simalur Island, Barussan Islands, western Sumatra.

An idea of the considerable difference in size between the present new race and typical *Conurus fasciatus* may be obtained from a comparison of the wing measurements of five adult male specimens of the latter from Tenasserim. These are: 147, 150, 151, 153, 157 (average, 151.6). Detailed measurements of *Conurus fasciatus abbotti* are added below:

MEASUREMENTS OF SPECIMENS OF *Conurus fasciatus abbotti*.

U. S. Nat. Mus. number.	Sex	Locality.	Date.	Collector.	Total length. ¹	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle toe without claw.
178825	♂	{ South Andaman I., Andaman Islands	Jan. 17, 1901	Dr. W. L. Abbott	381.5	174.5	196	27.5	16	21
178827	♂	"	"	"	399.5	173	198	28	17.5	20
178828	♂	"	"	"	387.5	169.5	197	28	17.5	21
Average of 3 males					.....	172.3	197	27.8	17.0	20.7
178826	♀	{ South Andaman I., Andaman Islands	Jan. 15, 1901	Dr. W. L. Abbott	368.5	174	177	27.5	17	23.5
178823	♀	"	Jan. 17, 1901	"	343	166	.....	26	16	22
178506	♀	"	"	"	166	.....	25	18	22
178824	♀	"	"	"	356	166	172	25	15.5	21
178505	♀	"	"	"	343	166	.....	27	16.5	20.5
178504	♀	{ Macpherson Strait, Andaman "	Jan. 15, 1901	"	318	163	.....	25	16	21
178829	♀	"	"	"	368.5	170	193	27	16.5	23
178503	♀	{ Henry Lawrence I., Andaman Islands	Jan. 10, 1901	"	362.5	171	181	26.5	17	22
Average of 8 females					.....	167.8	180.8	26.1	16.6	21.9

¹Measured in the flesh by the collector.²Type.